IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Device for cooling rolling stock within the cooling line of a rolling mill, especially a hot strip rolling mill, in which stationary water spray devices are installed below the rolling stock between rollers (10) of a roller table (1), and spray bars (3) held on support levers (16) are installed above the rolling stock, wherein the support levers (16) are supported by a tubular, rotationally driven and water-fed articulated tube (15) that extends parallel to the longitudinal axis of the roller table (1), with a central water feed pipe and an automatic control device with associated on-off valves for switching the cooling water on and off, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the rollers (10) of the roller table (1) are arranged with the closest possible spacing; that the lower cooling bars (2) are arranged below the spaces remaining between the rollers (10); that the spray tubes (13) of the cooling bars (2) fit into these spaces; and that the rollers (10) of the roller table (1) have elongated pins (11) of small diameter.

2. (Currently Amended) System in accordance with Claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the cooling bars (2) have a pear-shaped cross section, whose neck is directed towards the

spaces remaining between the rollers (10) and is furnished with the spray tubes (13).

3. (Currently Amended) System in accordance with ~~Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein the neck of the pear-shaped cross section of the cooling bars (2) is terminated by a retaining strip (23), which is fitted with spray tubes (13) and advantageously is interchangeable.

4. (Currently Amended) System in accordance with ~~Claims 1 to 3, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein the free end of each spray tube (13) is fitted with a nozzle (24).

5. (Currently Amended) System in accordance with ~~Claims 1 to 4, characterized by~~ Claim 1, comprising an articulated tube (15), which carries cooling water and is supported by stands (14) or the like in such a way that it can swivel, and from which tubular support arms (16) originate, which convey cooling water and both support the upper spray bars (3) and supply cooling water to them.

6. (Currently Amended) System in accordance with Claim 5, ~~characterized by~~ comprising at least one drive mechanism associated with the articulated tube (15).

7. (Currently Amended) System in accordance with Claim 6, ~~characterized by~~ comprising a hydraulic cylinder (17) that acts on a lever connected with the articulated tube (15), for example, a section of a support lever (16).

8. (Currently Amended) System in accordance with ~~Claims 1 to 7, characterized by~~ Claim 1, comprising spray guard plates (5) that articulate in front of the end faces of the spray bars (3).

9. (Currently Amended) System in accordance with ~~Claims 1 to 8, characterized by~~ Claim 1, comprising guide straightedges (6), which can be advanced towards stops (19) representing the strip width to be processed and can be retracted to their wide-open home position at the start of the intensive compact cooling.

10. (Currently Amended) System in accordance with ~~Claims 1 to 9, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein spray tube plates (4) that are provided with spray tubes (20) can be detachably or interchangeably mounted on the underside of the upper spray bars (3).

11. (Currently Amended) System in accordance with Claim 10, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the front free ends of the mouth regions (21) of the spray tubes (20) are expanded like

funnels, and the lower ends in the discharge regions (22) are constricted, if necessary, to the desired cross section.

12. (Currently Amended) System in accordance with ~~Claims 1 to 11, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein the ends of the cooling line of the roller table (1) are preferably equipped with systems (25, 26) for longitudinal spraying.

13. (Currently Amended) System in accordance with Claim 12, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein flaps (27, 28) that can be lowered are installed in front of the longitudinal spray systems.

14. (Currently Amended) System in accordance with ~~Claim 12 or 13, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 12, wherein the longitudinal spray systems (25, 26) are equipped with nozzle tubes (29, 30) that are acted upon by pressurized water and/or compressed air.

15. (Currently Amended) System in accordance with Claim 14, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the tubes that carry the nozzles can be raised into an open position.